

## Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 AID-05 CEQ-01 CIAE-00 OFA-01

COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 EPA-04 INR-07 IO-10 L-03 NSF-02

NSC-05 NSAE-00 PM-04 OES-05 SS-15 SP-02 INT-05 H-02

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DRAFTED BY EUR/CAN:LFJANOWSKI:RM

APPROVED BY EUR/CAN:DAKRUSE

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O 252229Z NOV 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL VANCOUVER IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 279055

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV, CA, US

SUBJECT: FLATHEAD/CABIN CREEK PROJECT

REF: JANOWSKI/BENSKY TELECON

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF DEPARTMENT'S NOTE OF OCTOBER 20:

"THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE REFERS TO THE EMBASSY OF CANADA'S NOTES OF NOVEMBER 18, 1974, AND FEBRUARY 28, 1975, AND THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE'S NOTE OF OCTOBER 22, 1974, WITH RESPECT TO THE POSSIBLE DEVELOPMENT OF COAL DEPOSITS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA IN THE HEADWATERS OF THE NORTH FORK OF THE FLATHEAD RIVER BY RIO ALGOM MINES LTD. THE USG WELCOMES THE ASSURANCES OF THE GOC THAT CANADIAN AUTHORITIES WILL ENSURE THAT ANY DEVELOPMENT OF THESE DEPOSITS WILL BE SO DESIGNED AND OPERATED AS TO MEET CANADA'S OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE BOUNDARY WATERS TREATY. THE USG LIKEWISE APPRECIATES THE ASSURANCES OF THE GOC THAT THE USG WILL BE

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KEPT FULLY INFORMED OF PROJECT DEVELOPMENTS AND THE WILLINGNESS OF THE GOC TO HOLD CONSULTATIONS TO DISCUSS

THIS MATTER WITH THE AIM OF ENSURING THAT AMERICAN INTERESTS ARE PROTECTED.

"THE USG IS OF THE VIEW THAT THE RIO ALGOM MINES PROJECT COULD SERIOUSLY DAMAGE EFFORTS TO PRESERVE THE UNIQUE ENVIRONMENTAL VALUE OF GLACIER NATIONAL PARK, THE FLAT-HEAD NATIONAL FOREST, AND THE FLATHEAD RIVER BASIN AND COULD CAUSE INJURY TO BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PROPERTY IN THESE AREAS. IN THIS CONNECTION, THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE WOULD LIKE TO RECALL THAT GLACIER NATIONAL PARK WAS AMONG THE FIRST BIOSPHERE RESERVES DESIGNATED BY THE US UNDER UNESCO'S MAN AND THE BIOSPHERE PROGRAM.

"THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE THEREFORE SUGGESTS THAT CONSULTATIONS BE HELD WITH RESPECT TO THIS MATTER AT THE EARLIEST PRACTICABLE DATE. THE DEPARTMENT BELIEVES THAT SUCH CONSULTATIONS SHOULD INCLUDE DISCUSSION OF THE STATUS OF THE PRESENT EXPLORATORY OPERATIONS OF RIO ALGOM MINES LTD., THE MINING REGULATIONS ESTABLISHED BY THE BRITISH COLUMBIA POLLUTION CONTROL BRANCH, AND ANY PRELIMINARY INFORMATION WHICH MAY BE AVAILABLE AS TO WHAT STEPS ARE ENVISAGED BY THE GOC AND/OR THE GOVERNMENT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA TO ASSURE ATTAINMENT OF THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF POLLUTION CONTROL.

"THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE ALSO BELIEVES THAT AN APPROPRIATE SUBJECT FOR CONSULTATION SHOULD BE THE UTILITY OF A BILATERAL AGREEMENT OR OTHER ARRANGEMENTS TO HELP ASSURE THAT THE WATERTON-GLACIER INTERNATIONAL PEACE PARK AND ITS IMMEDIATE ENVIRONMENT CAN BE PRESERVED FOR THE BENEFIT AND ENJOYMENT OF PRESENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS. THE DEPARTMENT ENVISAGES AN AGREEMENT OR OTHER ARRANGEMENTS WHICH WOULD HELP ASSURE THAT BOTH THE WATER AND AIR QUALITY IN THIS AREA BE PRESERVED WITHIN DEFINABLE PARAMETERS FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE SCENIC, RECREATIONAL, FISH AND WILDLIFE, AND OTHER NOTABLE ATTRIBUTES OF THE REGION. IN THIS RESPECT, THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE WOULD PROPOSE AN EARLY EXCHANGE OF NOTES BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS TO SIGNAL PUBLICLY THAT BOTH COUNTRIES ARE UNCLASSIFIED UNCLASSIFIED

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COMMITTED TO WORKING COOPERATIVELY TO DEVELOP MEANS OF ENSURING MAXIMUM PROTECTION FOR THE ENVIRONMENT OF THE AREA AFFECTED.

"THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE ALSO WISHES TO MAKE KNOWN TO THE GOC THAT THE STATE OF MONTANA HAS REQUESTED THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE TO PARTICIPATE IN PUBLIC HEARINGS THIS DECEMBER IN ORDER TO ASCERTAIN THE VIEWS OF INTERESTED PARTIES WITH RESPECT TO THE IMPACTS OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT AND MEANS OF ASSURING PRESERVATION OF THE UNIQUE

VALUES OF THESE AREAS.

"IN VIEW OF THE POSSIBLE INTEREST OF OFFICIALS OF THE GOC

AND THE GOVERNMENT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA, THE STATE OF MONTANA WISHES TO EXTEND TO THE GOC AND THE GOVERNMENT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA AN INVITATION TO OBSERVE THESE PUBLIC HEARINGS."

2. WE ARE SOMEWHAT SURPRISED THAT BRITISH COLUMBIA OFFICIALS UNAWARE OF TEXT OF OUR NOTE, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT WE EXPECT REPLY FROM GOC THIS WEEK. KISSINGER

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
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